

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A fixing device configured to fix a toner image on a transfer medium, comprising:

a separation plate configured to remove the transfer medium from a surface moving body, the separation plate including:

a guide part configured to guide the transfer medium; and

a head end part,

wherein a plurality of notch parts are provided in the guide part; and

wherein one of the notch parts in a center part of the guide part has a width greater than a width of one of the notch parts in an end part of the guide part.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The fixing device claimed in claim 19, wherein the head end part is thinner than the guide part.

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A fixing device configured to fix a toner image on a transfer medium, comprising:

a separation plate configured to remove the transfer medium from a surface moving body, the separation plate including:

a guide part configured to guide the transfer medium; and

a head end part,

wherein a notch part is provided in the guide part; and
a vapor receiving part is provided inside the notch part.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The fixing device as claimed in claim 22,
wherein the vapor receiving part inclines to a side of the surface moving body.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The fixing device as claimed in claim 22,
wherein the vapor receiving part is made of a material having a thermal conductivity
lower than a thermal conductivity of the guide part.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~The fixing device as claimed in claim 21~~ A fixing device configured to fix a toner image on a transfer medium, comprising:
a separation plate configured to remove the transfer medium from a surface moving
body, the separation plate including:
a guide part configured to guide the transfer medium; and
a head end part provided in the guide part via a heat insulating material,
wherein the head end part is thinner than the guide part.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The fixing device as claimed in claim 19,
wherein the surface moving body is a fixing belt.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a fixing device claimed in one of claims 19 ~~through 27~~, 20 and 22 through 26.

Claim 28 (New): A fixing device configured to fix a toner image on a transfer medium, comprising:

a separation plate configured to remove the transfer medium from a surface moving body, the separation plate including:

a guide part configured to guide the transfer medium; and

a head end part,

wherein a plurality of openings are provided in the guide part; and

wherein one of the openings in a center part of the guide part has a width greater than a width of one of the openings in an end part of the guide plate.